

Standard USG-3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the continuing role of the United States Constitution in the defining and shaping of American government and society.

USG-3.2 Explain the organization and responsibilities of local and state governments, including the purposes and functions of state constitutions; reserved and concurrent powers in the states; the relationships among national, state, and local levels of government; and the structure and operation of South Carolina's government. (P)

Taxonomy Level: 2.7-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

There will have been insignificant previous knowledge of this indicator. Students will have limited familiarity with state and local governments with some level of awareness primarily coming in the 3rd and 8th grades. From U.S. History students will have developed a partial awareness of state governments through the study of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

(1-4.2; 2-3.3; 3-3.4; 8-2.4; 8-5.1; USHC 2.4)

It is essential for students to recognize the role of state and local governments in the federal system and how these governments help disperse decision-making and power. It is important that students realize that state and local governments typically operate under the same basic format as the national government (written constitution, rule of law, representative government, etc. Although the form may differ, these levels of government help preserve, promote, and protect basic American ideals. Students should be able to identify specific duties, powers, and responsibilities that belong to the national and/or state and/or local governments and to recognize those powers classified as either reserved or concurrent in the Constitution. There should be an emphasis on intergovernmental relations (national, state, local) concerning the administrative function and focus of each level. Additionally students should be expected to detail the organization of SC government, recognize the primacy of the legislative branch and the growing challenge of the executive branch to this supremacy.

It is not essential for students to know specific people holding office in SC or other governments. It also is not necessary for students to identify the specific details of any particular state constitution, including South Carolina's.

Assessment guidelines: It is the objective of this indicator to explain the organization and responsibilities of state and local governments in the federal system. Appropriate assessment would require students to detail the Constitutional responsibilities of state governments and generalize major points about the workings of state and local governments. Furthermore, assessment should focus on outlining the structure and function of South Carolina's government and describing its operation.